

READING EAGLE COMPANY

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Sept. 25, 2018

Rita Tate
Freedom of Information Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 3
1650 Arch Street (3Cg00)
Philadelphia, PA 19103

RE: EPA-R3-02017-009916

Dear Rita Tate:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

On July 28, 2017, I requested "document(s) containing public records related to samples taken in Laureldale Borough and Muhlenberg Township in Berks County, Pa., showing the average soil-lead concentrations (mg/kg) in quarter-acre grids near Exide Technologies as part of the 2000 Administrative Order on Consent (Docket No. RCRA-III-3-2000-002TH)." (FOIA Request No: EPA-R3-02017-009916).

"In addition to the original study results, please also provide the test results for the 20 properties test in May 2017."

This request test results for soil samples taken in 2001-2002 and 2017.

This request was a "Full Grant" on or before Aug. 25, 2017.

According to an U.S. EPA "Cleanup Status" report (EPA ID: PAD9900753089) last updated on March 28, 2018, there were "approximately 12,500 soil samples collected in Laureldale Borough and Muhlenberg Township. (Link: <https://www.epa.gov/hwcorrectiveactionsites/hazardous-waste-cleanup-exide-technologies-reading-pennsylvania>)

U.S. EPA provided a spreadsheet containing 4,863 results.

Additionally, the data did not include a date, field identification number, sample type (whether a surface or core) and property type (whether commercial or residential).

Therefore, I am requesting an opportunity to inspect or obtain copies of public records that show all the results from lead soil tests conducted as a result of the 2000 Administrative Order on Consent and the request by Acting Regional Administrator Cecil Rodrigues on or about April 28, 2017 to resample the study area.

In your response, please include: the date of the sample, field ID and notes and type of sample (core or surface) and property (commercial or residential).

Please also include analytical data and methodology.

In order to help determine my status to assess fees, you should know that I am a journalist seeking the information on behalf of *The Reading Eagle*. This request is being made as part of the news gathering process and not for commercial use.

I request a waiver of all fees for this request. Disclosure of the requested information to me is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to the public's understanding of the measures taken to protect the public health. Should you not grant a fee waiver for this request, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$25. If you estimate that the fees will exceed this limit, please inform me first.

If the records exist in electronic form, I would like to receive them electronically.

There is an urgency to my request and I would like to receive the records as soon as possible. Please do not hesitate to call should you have any questions regarding my request.

Thank you for considering this request.



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